

# Indiana $\pi$ -Bill

Indiana House Bill #246

[https://www.in.gov/library/files/Pi\\_Bill.pdf](https://www.in.gov/library/files/Pi_Bill.pdf) was passed by the Indiana House of Representatives in 1897, motivated by the “discovery” by Edwin Goodwin of the true value of  $\pi$ . The bill failed to pass the Senate.

Here is a quotation from the original bill (taken from the book *Mathematical Cranks*, by Underwood Dudley.)

- PREAMBLE. A bill for an act introducing a new mathematical truth and offered as a contribution to education to be used only by the state of Indiana free of cost by paying any royalties whatever on the same, provided it is accepted by the official action of the legislature of 1897.
- SECTION 2. It is impossible to compute the area of a circle on the diameter as a linear unit without trespassing upon the area outside of the circle to the extent of including one-fifth more area than is contained within the circle's circumference, because the square of the diameter produces the side of the square which equals nine when the arc of ninety degrees equals eight.
- SECTION 3. In further proof of the value of the author's proposed contribution, and offered as a gift to the State of Indiana, is the fact of his solutions of the trisections of the angle, duplication of the cube and quadrature of the circle having already been accepted as contributions to science by the *American Mathematical Monthly*, the leading exponent of mathematical thought in this country.